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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION

Clarksville Gas and Water

Docket No. PF13-17-000

NOTICE OF INTENT TO PREPARE AN  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PLANNED  
INTERCONNECT PIPELINE PROJECT,  
REQUEST FOR COMMENTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES,  
AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the Interconnect Pipeline Project (Project) involving construction and operation of facilities by Clarksville Gas and Water (Clarksville) in Todd County, Kentucky and Montgomery County, Tennessee. The Commission will use this EA in its decision-making process to determine whether the Project is in the public convenience and necessity.

This notice announces the opening of the scoping process the Commission will use to gather input from the public and interested agencies on the Project. Your input will help the Commission staff determine what issues they need to evaluate in the EA. Please note that the scoping period will close on November 7, 2013.

You may submit comments in written form or verbally. Further details on how to submit written comments are in the Public Participation section of this notice. In lieu of or in addition to sending written comments, the Commission invites you to attend the public scoping meeting scheduled as follows:

Date and Time	Location
October 22, 2013 7:00 PM	Todd County Central High School 806 South Main Street Elkton, KY 42220

The scoping meeting will commence at the time listed above; however, representatives from Clarksville will be present one hour before the meeting to describe their proposal, present maps, and answer questions.

This notice is being sent to the Commission's current environmental mailing list for this Project. State and local government representatives should notify their constituents of this planned project and encourage them to comment on their areas of concern.

If you are a landowner receiving this notice, a pipeline company representative may contact you about the acquisition of an easement to construct, operate, and maintain the planned facilities. The company would seek to negotiate a mutually acceptable agreement. However, if the Commission approves the Project, that approval conveys with it the right of eminent domain. Therefore, if easement negotiations fail to produce an agreement, the pipeline company could initiate condemnation proceedings where compensation would be determined in accordance with state law.

A fact sheet prepared by the FERC entitled "An Interstate Natural Gas Facility On My Land? What Do I Need To Know?" is available for viewing on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)). This fact sheet addresses a number of typically-asked questions, including the use of eminent domain and how to participate in the Commission's proceedings.

### **Summary of the Planned Project**

Clarksville plans to build and operate a 23-mile-long 12-inch-diameter natural gas pipeline along with associated valves and appurtenant facilities in Todd County, Kentucky and Montgomery County, Tennessee. The planned pipeline would connect to Texas Gas Transmission LLC's pipeline in Kentucky and extend southward to Clarksville's local distribution system in Tennessee. The Project would provide access to additional natural gas sources to serve its retail distribution system.

The Project would consist of the following facilities:

- Pipeline Segment 1 - 19.7 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Todd County, Kentucky;
- Pipeline Segment 2 – 3.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter pipeline in Montgomery County, Tennessee; and
- a pressure-reducing valve at each of mileposts 0.0 and 19.8.

A map depicting the general location of the Project facilities is included in appendix 1<sup>1</sup>.

Clarksville plans to begin construction of the Project in October 2014 and place the facilities in service by October 2015.

### **Land Requirements for Construction and Operation**

Clarksville is still in the planning phase for the Project, and workspace requirements have not been finalized at this time. As currently planned, construction would disturb approximately 313 acres of land. Following construction, about 83 acres along Clarksville's planned easement would be maintained for permanent operation of the project facilities. The remaining acreage would be restored and allowed to revert to former uses. About 82 percent of the planned pipeline route overlaps or parallels existing pipeline, utility, or road rights-of-way.

### **The EA Process**

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us<sup>2</sup> to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. This process is referred to as "scoping." The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this notice, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues to address in the EA. We will consider all filed comments during the preparation of the EA.

In the EA we will discuss impacts that could occur as a result of the construction and operation of the planned Project under these general headings:

- geology and soils;
- water resources, fisheries, and wetlands;
- vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species;
- socioeconomics;

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<sup>1</sup> The appendices referenced in this notice are not being printed in the Federal Register. Copies of appendices were sent to all those receiving this notice in the mail and are available at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) using the link called "eLibrary" or from the Commission's Public Reference Room, 888 First Street NE, Washington, DC 20426, or call (202) 502-8371. For instructions on connecting to eLibrary, refer to the last page of this notice.

<sup>2</sup> "Us," "we," and "our" refer to the environmental staff of the Commission's Office of Energy Projects.

- cultural resources;
- land use and cumulative impacts;
- air quality and noise; and
- public safety.

We will also evaluate reasonable alternatives to the planned Project or portions of the Project, and make recommendations on how to lessen or avoid impacts on the various resource areas.

Although no formal application has been filed, we have already initiated our NEPA review under the Commission's Pre-filing Process. The purpose of the Pre-filing Process is to encourage early involvement of interested stakeholders and to identify and resolve issues before an application is filed with the FERC. As part of our pre-filing review, we have begun to contact some federal and state agencies to discuss their involvement in the scoping process and the preparation of the EA. In addition, representatives from FERC participated in the public open houses sponsored by Clarksville in the Project area in September 2013 to explain the environmental review process to interested stakeholders.

The EA will present our independent analysis of the issues. The EA will be available in the public record through eLibrary. We will consider all comments on the EA before making our recommendations to the Commission. To ensure we have the opportunity to consider and address your comments, please carefully follow the instructions in the Public Participation section beginning on page 5.

With this notice, we are asking agencies with jurisdiction by law and/or special expertise with respect to the environmental issues of this Project to formally cooperate with us in the preparation of the EA.<sup>3</sup> Agencies that would like to request cooperating agency status should follow the instructions for filing comments provided under the Public Participation section of this notice.

### **Consultations Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act**

In accordance with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's implementing regulations for section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, we are using this notice to initiate consultation with applicable State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPO), and to solicit their views and those of other government agencies, interested Indian tribes,

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<sup>3</sup> The Council on Environmental Quality regulations addressing cooperating agency responsibilities are at 40 CFR 1501.6.

and the public on the Project's potential effects on historic properties.<sup>4</sup> We will define the project-specific Area of Potential Effects (APE) in consultation with the SHPOs as the Project is further developed. On natural gas facility projects, the APE at a minimum encompasses all areas subject to ground disturbance (examples include construction right-of-way, contractor/pipe storage yards, and access roads). Our EA for this Project will document our findings on the impacts on historic properties and summarize the status of consultations under section 106.

### **Currently Identified Environmental Issues**

We have already identified several issues that we think deserve attention based on a preliminary review of the planned facilities, the environmental information provided by Clarksville, and comments received by the public. This preliminary list of issues may be changed based on your comments and our analysis:

- residential impacts, including the potential for decreased property values;
- impacts on agriculture, livestock, and wells;
- impacts on forest and streams;
- impact on hidden karst features/sinkholes;
- impacts on property value;
- restoration of property;
- consideration of routing alternatives;
- the purpose and need for the Project; and
- safety during pipeline operations.

### **Public Participation**

You can make a difference by providing us with your specific comments or concerns about the project. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that your comments are timely and properly recorded, please send your comments so that they will be received in Washington, DC on or before November 6, 2013. However, this is not your only public input opportunity; please refer to the Review Process flow chart in appendix 2.

For your convenience, there are four methods you can use to submit your comments to the Commission. In all instances, please reference the project docket

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<sup>4</sup> The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's regulations are at 36 CFR Part 800. Historic properties are defined in those regulations as any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places.

number (PF13-17-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert eFiling staff available to assist you at (202) 502-8258 or [efiling@ferc.gov](mailto:efiling@ferc.gov).

1. You can file your comments electronically by using the [eComment](#) feature, which is located on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). This is an easy method for interested persons to submit brief, text-only comments on a project;
2. You can file your comments electronically by using the [eFiling](#) feature, which is located on the Commission's website at [www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “[eRegister](#).” You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing”;
3. You can attend and provide either oral or written comments at a public scoping meeting. A transcript of each meeting will be made so that your comments will be accurately recorded and included in the public record; or
4. You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:  
Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
888 First Street NE, Room 1A  
Washington, DC 20426

### **Environmental Mailing List**

The environmental mailing list includes federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American Tribes; other interested parties; and local libraries and newspapers. This list also includes all affected landowners (as defined in the Commission’s regulations) who are potential right-of-way grantors, whose property may be used temporarily for project purposes, or who own homes within certain distances of aboveground facilities, and anyone who submits comments on the Project. We will update the environmental mailing list as the analysis proceeds to ensure that we send the information related to this environmental review to all individuals, organizations, and government entities interested in and/or potentially affected by the planned Project.

When the EA is published for distribution, copies will be sent to the environmental mailing list for public review and comment. If you would prefer to receive a paper copy of the document instead of the CD version, or would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please return the attached Information Request (appendix 3).

### **Becoming an Intervenor**

Once Clarksville files its application with the Commission, you may want to become an “intervenor” which is an official party to the Commission’s proceeding. Intervenor play a more formal role in the process and are able to file briefs, appear at hearings, and be heard by the courts if they choose to appeal the Commission's final ruling. An intervenor formally participates in the proceeding by filing a request to intervene. Instructions for becoming an intervenor are included in the User’s Guide under the “e-Filing” link on the Commission’s website. Please note that the Commission will not accept requests for intervenor status at this time. You must wait until a formal application for the project is filed with the Commission.

### **Additional Information**

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at (866) 208-FERC, or on the FERC website ([www.ferc.gov](http://www.ferc.gov)) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search” and enter the docket number, excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., PF13-17). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov) or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the text of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription which allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to [www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm](http://www.ferc.gov/esubscribenow.htm).

Public meetings or site visits will be posted on the Commission’s calendar located at [www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx](http://www.ferc.gov/EventCalendar/EventsList.aspx) along with other related information.

Finally, Clarksville has established a website for this Project at <http://www.cityofclarksville.com/index.aspx?page=643>. The website includes a project overview, environmental information, and information for affected stakeholders.

Dated: October 8, 2013

Kimberly D. Bose,  
Secretary.

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